



Catch The Buzz

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Memphis Area Beekeepers Association <http://memphisbeekeepers.com/>

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183

Meeting Location: 7777 Walnut Grove Rd # C, Memphis, TN 38120

MEETING DATE & TIME: March 8, 2021 at 7 pm – MABA March 2021 Meeting – Kent Williams from Wingo, KY will be presenting remotely through Google Meet. Kent will present “**Everything you ever needed to know about beekeeping in 100 words or less**”! We will be meeting again through Google Meet. Please look for the invitation in your email (and possibly Junk mail boxes, it happens).

*****Important – we are NOT meeting at the Agricenter*****

MARCH AND THE BEES

- March, a warm month in the Shelby County Area, the lengthening days and new pollen and nectar sources stimulate brood rearing. As days lengthen and temps increase, the cluster expands and drones are produced. With an increase in brood rearing and increase in adult bees, **the nest area of the colony becomes crowded**. More bees are evident at the entrance of the nest. Give the queen room by removing some honey-bound frames or adding an extra box. The queen needs the space to build up for the nectar flow.
- The bees also gather water to regulate temperature and to liquefy thick or granulated honey in the preparation of brood food. Remember, **the colony expands rapidly in March**, with an increase in both young and field-worker bees. This is the critical time for starvation. The worker bees are beginning to forage and drones begin to appear. As the days grow longer, the Queen increases her rate of egg production and colonies wishing to swarm may start to raise swarm cells and colonies with failing queens may start supersedure cells. These will hatch in 16 days.
- Weather permitting, a few early swarms could occur in March. Manage for swarming by moving the box on top down to the bottom board if the bees are in two boxes or manipulate the frames by removing brood frames from the center and adding empty drawn comb or new wax foundation to the brood chamber. Food stores are being consumed at a rapid rate. Natural Pollen is coming in rapidly but cold, windy weather can affect nectar sources so a close watch on food stores is critical.
- Regardless of its condition, crowded or not the colony will try to expand by building new combs if food and room are available. These new combs are used for the storage of honey, whereas the older combs are used for pollen storage and brood rearing.



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MARCH AND THE BEEKEEPER

- Get your equipment ready.
- Inspect your hive(s)! when the temperature is 50 degrees or higher, look in the hive and pull out a few frames.
- Remove the entrance reducer and clean the bottom board as it may be filled with dead, winter bees.
- Assess how many of your colonies have died out over the winter.
- Clean out these boxes and freeze the comb if you can. This will prevent the spread of wax moths
- Feed your bees or they will starve until they can bring in enough nectar and pollen. Feed sugar syrup mixture, sugar or patties. Remove the patties by Mid-March to prevent infestations of hive beetles.
- Check honey stores prepare to Re-queen failing Queens, order queens, remove all medicines as specified on the labels.
- Manage for swarming
- Attend Bee Meetings

2/25/2021 [National Honey Board Report:](#)

TENNESSEE: Tennessee has been cold for the month of January. On warm days there are a few winter blooming flowers that bees are visiting. These pollen and nectar sources are not significant for honey production. So far this year colony losses have been low throughout the state with a few exceptions.

ARKANSAS: During the month of January temperatures were mostly above normal across most of the state. Precipitation during January was slightly below normal to below normal across most of the state. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor website, Arkansas had normal soil moisture conditions for January. Too few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey.

MISSISSIPPI: Beekeepers are just hanging in there waiting for the weather to get better before getting to work in the hives and checking on the bees. Bees are fed protein patties to keep up their weight and condition. Most are reporting about a 15 percent loss this month. Wildflower prices reported to be \$2.00 - \$2.10 per pound



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BEEKEEPING READING LIST

Heroes to Hives: Veterans learn beekeeping
<https://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-heroes-to-hives/>

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Heroes to Hives is open to all US veterans, active-duty personnel, National Guard, and reservists across the globe. Heroes to Hives (H2H) is a unique program through Michigan State University Extension that seeks to address financial and personal wellness of veterans through FREE professional training and community development centered around beekeeping. Veterans leave our program with a broad depth of beekeeping knowledge, as well as personal and professional relationships that open up new opportunities and ensure long-term peer support. Our students understand the importance of pollinators in US agriculture and stand to protect managed honey bees through small-scale sustainable beekeeping operations. Registration for the 2021 program closes Feb 28, 2021. The program runs from March to November and the main program is online. Students receive two to six hours of lecture content every month from March-November that is pre-recorded so that they can learn at their own pace. Register at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/veterans/veterans-programming/Heroes-to-Hives/index>

Heroes to Hives is open to all US veterans, active-duty personnel, National Guard, and reservists across the globe. Whether you are retired at home or active duty far away from home we welcome you to the Heroes to Hives program. Although our curriculum is specifically focused on beekeeping in Michigan veterans in any location will gain valuable knowledge on honey bee biology, colony biology, pest and pathogen management, and overwintering. Out of state students are also welcome to join us at our on-ground classes in Michigan. Since the program began in 2015, H2H has trained nearly 1,000 service members and their dependents from 25 states who currently keep over 4,000 beehives. Alumni go on to start their own beekeeping businesses, keep bees as a hobby and in a few cases, work for commercial beekeepers.

The program's mission is to safeguard US food security by protecting the most important managed pollinator on the planet.

Students participate in a nine-month comprehensive education program that couples online lectures with hands-on learning in our H2H apiaries located across Michigan. Students receive two to six hours of lecture content every month from March-November that is pre-recorded so that they can learn at their own pace. Online instruction is then coupled with on-ground training May-October on hive handling, hive inspections, pest and pathogen management, and beekeeping ergonomics nearly every weekend during the beekeeping season at one of our training apiaries located throughout Michigan.

Heroes to Hives is also open to military dependents (spouses and children over the age of 18) of participating veterans only. Dependents are enrolled by the veteran participant at the time of enrollment.

Read or heard of good, science-based beekeeping articles? Please let us know, we will get them into the MABA newsletter.



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UNIT HONEY PRICES BY MONTH

Retail-Average Retail Price per Pound across all reporting regions - Data from <https://www.honey.com/honey-industry/statistics/retail-honey-price> used with permission. Based upon average price across all reporting regions. Assumes various sizes sold at the same rate.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2021	\$8.40	\$8.18										
2020	\$8.03	\$7.88	\$7.95	\$7.90	\$8.09	N/A	\$7.93	\$7.83	\$7.95	\$7.61	\$7.76	\$8.22
2019	\$7.28	\$7.54	\$7.86	\$7.66	\$7.66	\$7.72	\$7.68	\$7.62	\$7.89	\$7.71	\$7.85	\$8.08

Average Wholesale Case Price Per Pound across All Reporting Regions. Data from <https://www.honey.com/honey-industry/statistics/wholesale-honey-price> used with permission. Based upon average price across all reporting regions. Assumes various sizes sold at the same rate.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2021	\$5.89	\$5.30										
2020	\$4.89	\$5.12	\$4.91	\$5.01	\$5.05	N/A	\$5.03	\$4.96	\$5.00	\$4.89	\$4.88	\$5.13
2019	\$4.16	\$4.32	\$4.33	\$4.41	\$4.41	\$3.55	\$4.51	\$4.42	\$4.46	\$4.52	\$4.62	\$4.64

To subscribe to the National Honey board newsletter visit: <https://www.honey.com/signup>

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEETING DATE & TIME: April 12, 2021 at 7 pm – MABA April 2021 Meeting – **Michael Studer**, the Tennessee State Apiarist, from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, will be presenting remotely through Google Meet. Mike will present the current state of beekeeping across the state of Tennessee. We will be meeting again through Google Meet. Please look for the invitation in your email (and possibly Junk mail boxes, it happens).



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HONEY-BASED RECIPES

HONEY-LIME CHICKEN SKEWERS: Makes 8 servings

INGREDIENTS	DIRECTIONS
2 T - honey 3 T - soy sauce 1 T - olive oil 1 - lime, juiced 1 lb. - chicken breast strips, skinless and boneless	In a small bowl, whisk all liquid ingredients together until completely blended. Pour mixture into a freezer bag and add in chicken strips. Reseal bag and gently shake to cover chicken strips. Allow to marinade for 2 hours Next, prepare skewers by soaking bamboo sticks in water for 15 minutes. Remove chicken strips from marinade and skewer onto bamboo sticks. Grill on medium to high heat for 8 minutes or until juices are clear and chicken is fully cooked.

<https://honey.com/recipe/honey-lime-chicken-skewers>

* For everyone receiving this newsletter by USPS snail mail, if you now have email and computer access and would like to attend the MABA meetings through Google Meet then please email webmaster@memphisbeekeepers.com to have you added to the email distribution list for the newsletter.